

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
January 4, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Belton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Loren Belton and Councilmembers Clara Jiménez, Christina Kwan, Derald Ortloff, Randy Taylor, and Blaine Thorington.

Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy, Fire Chief Tim Smith, Special Projects Assistant Tom Kehm, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Deputy City Clerk Riojas administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Councilmembers Clara Jiménez, Derald Ortloff, and Blaine Thorington for the January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2013 term of office.

SELECT MAYOR FOR 2010 AND 2011

Mayor Belton called for nominations for the position of Mayor. Councilmember Taylor nominated Councilmember Thorington. Mayor Belton closed nominations for the position of Mayor.

Votes for the position of Mayor were as follows:

Councilmember Thorington: Councilmembers Belton, Jiménez, Kwan, Ortloff, Taylor, and Thorington.

Councilmember Thorington was elected as Mayor and began presiding over the meeting.

SELECT OF MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE FOR 2010 AND 2011

Mayor Thorington called for nominations for the position of Mayor Pro-Tempore. Councilmember Ortloff nominated Councilmember Jiménez. Councilmember Kwan nominated Councilmember Ortloff. Mayor Thorington closed nominations for the position of Mayor Pro-Tempore.

Votes for the position of Mayor Pro-Tempore were as follows:

Councilmember Jiménez: Mayor Thorington and Councilmembers Belton, Jiménez, Ortloff, and Taylor.

Councilmember Ortloff: Councilmember Kwan.

Councilmember Jiménez was elected Mayor Pro-Tempore.

SEATING OF THE COUNCIL

The Councilmembers, according to seniority, chose their seating arrangement.

REPORT BY FIRE CHIEF SMITH REGARDING THE EMS LEVY

Fire Chief Smith reported that the current EMS Levy is set to expire December 31, 2011 and that the Fire Chiefs are meeting to prepare for the next EMS Levy. Chief Smith explained the history of the EMS Levy that was originally approved by the voters in 1995 for a six-year levy set at 25¢ per \$1,000 of assessed property value, and then the voters approved the continuation of the EMS Levy in 2001 for a ten year levy set at 25¢ per \$1,000 of assessed property value. During the past fifteen years, the money generated by the EMS Levy has provided fire departments county wide, and funds to assist with purchasing numerous pieces of EMS equipment. It was the consensus of the Council to recommend including in the next election a continuation of the EMS Levy for a ten-year levy set at 25¢ per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

DISCUSSION ABOUT THE CITY ADVISORY COMMISSIONS AND THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

CM Murphy reported that the Planning Commission has four vacancies and that the Tourism Fund Advisory Commission has one vacancy. The Council decided to have the Public Safety Committee meet quarterly rather monthly, and to change the start time from 5:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Two-year appointments:

- Boards and Selection Committee: Councilmembers Taylor, Jiménez, and Kwan.
- Public Safety Committee: Councilmembers Taylor, Kwan, and Ortloff.
- Cable Regulation Board: Representative – Councilmember Ortloff
Alternate – Councilmember Thorington
- Interlocal Tourism Board: Mayor Thorington (by position)

SELECT YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS MEMBER AND ALTERNATE FOR 2010

Councilmember Jiménez volunteered to be the 2010 Yakima Valley Conference of Governments Member and Mayor Thorington volunteered to be the 2010 Yakima Valley Conference of Governments Alternate.

DISCUSS AWC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to determine its 2010 legislative priorities to be gang injunction legislation, to support AWC’s legislative priority to alter GMA and Shoreline planning update schedule, and to support AWC’s legislative priority to reduce the matching requirements for State grants. CM Murphy suggested sending a letter to the legislative delegation and a copy to the local Mayors.

SCHEDULE THE CITY MANAGER EVALUATION FOR JANUARY 25, 2010

It was stated that the City Manager evaluation would be conducted on January 25, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

BLAINE R. THORINGTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK